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February 9, 2004

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Art Unit 1634

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Application No. 09/599,594; Filed: June 22, 2000

For: Primers and Methods for the Detection and Discrimination of Nucleic

Acids

Inventor:

Nazarenko et al.

Our Ref:

0942.4980002/RWE/FRC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Fee Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/17);
- 2. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116;
- 3. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal;
- 4. PTO Credit Card Form (PTO-2038) in the amount of \$770.00 to cover the RCE fee; and
- 5. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.c. : 1100 New York Avenue, NW : Washington, DC 20005 : 202.371.2600 f 202.371.2540 : www.skgf.com

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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

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FRC/pcd Encls.

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